

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed June 17, 2004. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 2 - 16 and 18 - 32 remain pending. In particular, Applicants have added claims 21 - 32, have amended claims 2 - 11, 14, 16, 18, 19 and 21, and have canceled claims 1 and 17 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicants have canceled claims 1 and 17 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that claims 2, 3, 5, 11, 14, 16, 18 and 20 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In this regard, Applicants have amended claims 2, 3, 5, 11, 14, 16 and 18 to be in independent form. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims and the claims that depend therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action indicates that claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Kivela*. Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1 has been canceled and that the rejection as to this claim has been rendered moot. The remaining claims now depend either directly or indirectly from a claim that has been indicated as being

in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action indicates that claims 7, 10, 15, 17 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kivela*. Applicants respectfully assert that claim 17 has been canceled and that the rejection as to this claim has been rendered moot. The remaining claims now depend either directly or indirectly from a claim that has been indicated as being in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Newly-Added Claims

Upon entry of the amendments in this response, Applicants have added claims 21 – 32. Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are in condition for allowance for at least the reason that they incorporate features/limitations of their respective base claims, the allowability of which was described above.

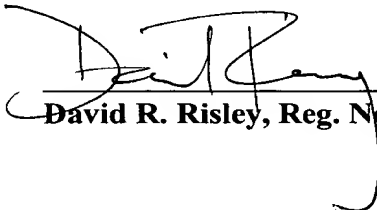
Cited Art Made of Record

The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 2 – 16 and 18 - 32 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

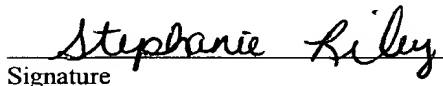
Respectfully submitted,



David R. Risley, Reg. No. 39,345

**THOMAS, KAYDEN,
HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, L.L.P.**
Suite 1750
100 Galleria Parkway N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
(770) 933-9500

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 7/13/04.



Signature